

# Wasatch Co. Building Survey

Name of Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Information Required		Date Found	
Location:			
Address:	Town:		
Architect:			
Builders:			
Building Material:			
Style of Building:			
Date Built:			
Original Owners:			
FGS			
Pedigree			
Histories			
Pictures			
Subsequent Owners:			
Notes:			
References: 1.			
2.			

## JOHN AUSTIN

John Austin was born in England, February 7, 1868, and came to Utah with his parents when he was about two years old. The family settled in Lehi and he lived there until 1886, when he came to Heber Valley with a small herd of sheep. A Mr. Wines was part owner in the flock. A few years later he bought Wine's interest and began investing in real estate. He bought the Howe farm of 160 acres in Center Creek. It was considered one of the best farms in the valley. He continued to increase his holdings and soon was the owner of several thousand acres of land. His flocks increased until he was one of the largest sheep owners in the country. About this time he and his brother, George and several other enterprising men, incorporated the Heber Land and Livestock Company with a capital stock of \$100,000. The business increased to \$400,000.

John was chairman of the board of county commissioners of Wasatch County and also chairman of the State Board of Sheep Commissioners.

On the 7th of March 1891 he married Sadie Thomas of Center Creek. They built one of the finest homes in Wasatch County. It is the present home of Emma Wheritt.

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The old John Crook home constructed from brick manufactured at the Van Wagoner brick yards in Wasatch County.

of Sanpete and Sevier Counties to a reservation in eastern Wasatch County. The Indians, led by Chief Black Hawk were bitter about the move and refused to stay on the reservation land. They roamed over the state and on April 10, 1865 became involved in an incident with white settlers near Manti in Sanpete County. A white person was reported, in a drunken state, to have pulled an Indian off a horse and insulted him. The Indians needed only this slight provocation to go on the warpath.

By the Spring of 1866 the Indians were making general raids, stealing cattle and threatening the lives of the white settlers. Several men were killed in Sanpete and Sevier counties during raids, and because



Residence of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Wherritt, one of the finest early homes in Heber. Built in the early 1900's by John Austin and purchased by Dr. Wherritt in 1908. It was built before electricity and city water were supplied. Water for the home was hand pumped from a well on the lot to tanks in the top of the home which supplied pressured water. It is still one of the outstanding homes of the city.

of this some white settlers retaliated by killing a few Indians. The war began in earnest then.

Because the Indian reservation was located in Wasatch County the leaders of the territorial militia advised that the people band together to protect themselves. One small settlement was formed at Midway, but most of the valley moved into Heber City.

In the meantime, Colonel Robert T. Burton and David J. Ross came to Heber on May 26, 1866, and enrolled all the available men in the valley into companies to protect the people and their animals. John W. Witt was appointed major of the county militia with Charles Wilcken as adjutant. William M. Wall was appointed Captain of a cavalry company and John Hamilton and Thomas Todd were captains of infantry companies. John Galligher was a captain of a silver grey company. The Midway cavalry company was headed by Sidney Epperson, and Ira Jacob was captain of the Midway infantry. Other officers of the militia were John Crook, David Van Wagoner, Joseph McCarrel and John M. Murdock.

One of the first acts of the Wasatch militia was to make peace. A



AUSTIN, John, a pioneer settler of Lehi, Utah, was born Dec. 3, 1822, at Studham, Bedfordshire, England, the third child of Joseph Austin and Ann Mills. He was early taught to be industrious and frugal, and on March 20, 1847, he married Emma Grace, daughter of Thomas Grace and Mary Jayce, of Whipsnade in Bedfordshire. After residing a short time in Whipsnade, the young couple moved to Kinsmouth, Hartfordshire, and there the young wife became a convert to the restored gospel, being baptized Jan.

#### LY SAINT

5, 1850. On the same date, two years later, John Austin was baptized. The young couple lived quiet, industrious lives, raised a large family and kept out of debt, but always before them was the hope that some day they might gather with the saints in Zion. When the family numbered eleven children, they felt that their hopes could never be realized, so they decided to spend the little money saved towards their



emigration in sending their oldest daughter (Harriet), 18 years of age, and their oldest son (George), 17 years old, to Utah, that the family would at least be represented among the saints there. These young people left London, England, May 5, 1866, on the ship "Caroline" in a company of 389 emigrating Saints, and arrived in New York, June 11th. Thence the company proceeded by rail and river steamers to Wyoming, Neb., the outfitting place for the L. D. S. emigration that year. Harriet and George crossed the plains in Wm. Henry Chipman's train and settled in Lehi, Utah, where their father's brother, George, already resided. In 1868, Sister Austin read in the "Millennial Star" that part of the ship "Minnesota" had been chartered for the benefit of saints who expected to emigrate and felt impressed that

she and her husband and family would go in that ship, and so commenced to make preparations for the voyage. Just two weeks before the ship sailed, Bro. Bartel Turner, a neighbor, offered to lend Bro. Austin the money to emigrate his entire family. At first Bro. Austin hesitated to accept this generous offer, fearing that he might never be able to repay the loan, but finally became convinced that the prayers of himself and family had previously been answered in a miraculous way, and that they might trust their Heavenly Father to aid them in paying off the debt. So Bro. and Sister Austin with their ten children sailed from Liverpool, England, June 22, 1868, on the ship "Minnesota" which arrived in New York, July 12th. Thence they proceeded by rail to Laramie, Wyoming, where they were met by Capt. Joseph S. Rawlins with a mule train with which they made the journey to Salt Lake City and then proceeded to Lehi, where they established a permanent home. At this time the Union Pacific Railroad was nearing its completion and men were being hired for grading, etc., so Bro. Austin with his two oldest boys obtained work, and at the end of that season they were enabled to pay their friends the money borrowed for their emigration. The following year Bro. Austin took up farming land at Lehi and later he and his sons were among the first to take up land on the bench north of Lehi, under the North Bench Ditch. The father and sons were eminently successful as tillers of the soil, and when the sugar factory was located at Lehi, the Austin brothers were among the foremost to bring about the successful cultivation of the sugar beet. As a consequence a number of the sons of John Austin became superintendents of agriculture at different factories of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, one, George, being the general superintendent of agriculture over all the factories of the company, a position later occu-

pied by his younger brother Mark at a time when the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company was one of the most important corporations in the West.

Bro. Austin's loving wife and faithful companion during his days of adversity died in 1893, aged 66 years, and afterwards Bro. Austin married Elizabeth Pead, who preceded him just a few days to the Great Beyond. Bro. Austin died Feb. 13, 1907, as president of the High Priests of Lehi. He was dearly beloved and respected by all and left a family which is noted for thrift, industry and business sagacity, members of which are filling positions of trust and honor both in Church and State.

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*Vol 4:*

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*Vol 4: 114-115*

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